

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated April 14, 2004, claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

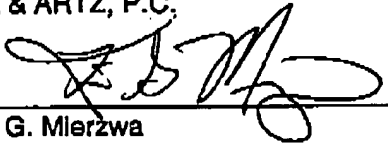
The Examiner has restricted the invention to one of the two following groups: Group I includes claims 1-13 drawn to a tool for removing a first connector; and claims 14-17 in Group II drawn to a method of disconnecting. The Examiner states that the inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 specifically recites three of the four steps being performed by "the tool." Therefore, claim 14 cannot be practiced by hand. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration of the restriction requirement. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to consider claims 1-17 together.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-13.

In light of the above remarks, applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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